

THE GAMBIA SUSPENDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN MCC COMPACT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, JUNE 29 - The Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) today agreed to suspend The Gambia's eligibility for assistance citing a pattern of actions inconsistent with MCC's selection criteria.

The Board based its decision on documented evidence of human rights abuses and increased restrictions on political rights, civil liberties, and press freedom by the government, as well as worsening economic policies and anti-corruption efforts. The Board considered reports from several organizations to support its decision including: Freedom House, the Heritage Foundation, the World Economic Forum, the Economist Intelligence Unit, and the State Department.

The Board annually selects countries for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) eligibility from a pool of candidate countries based on each country's demonstrated commitment in three broad policy categories - "ruling justly," "investing in people," and "promoting economic freedom"- as measured by performance on 16 independent policy indicators within their income peer group.

=====

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

GR/ 2006

Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available from the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section (Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>)